

said chassis having a mounting seat surface formed in a center of an upper face of said chassis and for mounting said chassis onto a predetermined mounting position of said vehicle body so as to mount said pair of stereo cameras on said vehicle body;

portions of said chassis other than said mounting seat surface are disposed apart from the vehicle body when said chassis is mounted in said vehicle.

2. (Twice Amended) A structure for mounting cameras on a vehicle, comprising:

a chassis having a predetermined length and extended in a lateral direction of a vehicle body; and

a mounting seat surface formed in a center of an upper face of said chassis for mounting said chassis onto a predetermined mounting position of said vehicle body;

a pair of stereo cameras mounted on said chassis for obtaining an image signal of a forward road environment, a camera being mounted on each end of said chassis; and

a taper plate for adjusting a vertical angle of optical axis of said stereo cameras, said taper plate being formed of a wedge-like plate and sandwiched by said mounting seat surface of said chassis and said mounting position of said vehicle body when said chassis is mounted onto said vehicle body.

3. (Twice Amended) The structure for mounting camera on a vehicle according to claim 2, wherein:

C1
concluded

said taper plate is selected from a group consisting of the taper plates having different taper angles so that said optical axis of said stereo cameras is directed into a correct direction when said chassis is mounted onto the mounting position of the vehicle body.

C2

10. (Amended) The structure for mounting cameras on a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said chassis has a cross section consisting of a plate-like main body extending in said lateral direction and a hook-like curved portion integrally formed along a front edge of said main body.

C3

13. (Amended) The structure for mounting cameras on a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said chassis is mounted onto a front rail of said vehicle body.

14. (Amended) The structure for mounting cameras on a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said chassis is supported by said vehicle body only through said mounting seat surface.

A marked up copy of the amended claims is attached hereto.

Please delete Claims 5-9, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

15. (New) The structure for mounting cameras on a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein portions of said chassis other than said mounting seat member are disposed apart from said vehicle body when said chassis is mounted on said vehicle.

16. (New) The structure for mounting cameras on a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said mounting seat has a width of about 50 mm in lateral direction.

C4
17. (New) A structure for mounting cameras on a vehicle, comprising:
a chassis having a predetermined length and extended in a lateral direction;
a pair of stereo cameras mounted on both ends of said chassis for obtaining an image signal of a forward road environment;
a mounting seat member formed in a center of said chassis and fixed onto a predetermined mounting position of said vehicle body; and
falling prevention means for preventing said chassis from falling before said chassis is mounted onto said vehicle body.

18. (New) The structure for mounting cameras on a vehicle according to claim 17, wherein said falling prevention means comprise:

a pair of brackets attached on an upper portion of both ends of said chassis, having at least one split pin inserted into said vehicle body before said chassis is mounted onto the vehicle body; and

a pair of belts being connected to said bracket at one end thereof and to said chassis at another end thereof.

19. (New) The structure for mounting cameras on a vehicle according to claim 18, wherein said belt being bent in a U-shape does not support said chassis when said chassis is mounted onto the vehicle body.

20. (New) A structure for mounting cameras on a vehicle, comprising:

a chassis having a predetermined length and extended in a lateral direction of a vehicle body; and

a pair of stereo cameras having a camera on the right and left sides for obtaining an image signal of a forward road environment of said vehicle, each of said right side and left side cameras being mounted on each right side and left side ends, respectively, of said chassis in said lateral direction having a positional relationship to each other;

said chassis having a mounting seat surface formed in a center of an upper face of said chassis and for mounting said chassis onto a predetermined mounting position of said vehicle body so as to mount said pair of stereo cameras on said vehicle body;

said chassis having a cross section consisting of a plate-like main body extending in said lateral direction and a hook-like curved portion integrally formed along a front edge of said main body.

21. (New) The structure for mounting cameras on a vehicle according to claim 20, wherein said chassis is formed by one material having a high-coefficient of thermal conductivity for performing thermal conductivity quickly so as to keep a thermal balance between said pair of cameras.

22. (New) The structure for mounting cameras on a vehicle according to claim 21, wherein said chassis is formed from an aluminum alloy.

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

Amendments in the Claims

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c) the following version of the claims as rewritten by the foregoing amendment shows all the changes made relative to the previous version of the claims.

1. (Twice Amended) A structure for mounting cameras on a vehicle, comprising:
 - a chassis having a predetermined length and extended in a lateral direction of a vehicle body; and
 - a pair of stereo cameras having a camera on the right and left sides for obtaining an image signal of a forward road environment of said vehicle, each of said right side and left side cameras being mounted on each right side and left side ends, respectively, of said chassis in said lateral direction having a positional relationship to each other; and
 - said chassis having a mounting seat [member] surface formed in a center of an upper face of said chassis and for [fixing] mounting said chassis onto a predetermined mounting position of said vehicle body so as to mount said pair of stereo cameras on said vehicle body;
 - portions of said chassis other than said mounting seat [member] surface are disposed apart from the vehicle body when said chassis is mounted in said vehicle.

2. (Twice Amended) A structure for mounting cameras on a vehicle, comprising:

a chassis having a predetermined length and extended in a lateral direction of a vehicle body; and

a mounting seat surface formed in a center of an upper face of said chassis for mounting said chassis onto a predetermined mounting position of said vehicle body;

a pair of stereo cameras mounted on said chassis [with] for obtaining an image signal of a forward road environment, [each] a camera being mounted on [both ends] each end of said chassis; and

[a mounting seat member formed in a center of said chassis and for fixing onto a predetermined mounting position of said vehicle body; and]

a taper plate [intervenient between said mounting seat member and said mounting position on the vehicle body when fixing said chassis onto the mounting position of the vehicle body] for adjusting a vertical angle of optical axis of said stereo cameras, said taper plate being formed of a wedge-like plate and sandwiched by said mounting seat surface of said chassis and said mounting position of said vehicle body when said chassis is mounted onto said vehicle body.

3. (Twice Amended) The structure for mounting camera on a vehicle according to claim 2, wherein:

said taper plate is [one of a plurality of taper plates prepared in advance which are formed by wedge-like plates with different taper angle when fixing said chassis onto the

mounting position of the vehicle body] selected from a group consisting of the taper plates having different taper angles so that said optical axis of said stereo cameras is directed into a correct direction when said chassis is mounted onto the mounting position of the vehicle body.

[wherein said taper plate has the most adequate taper angle among said plurality of taper plates, and intervenes between said mounting seat member and the vehicle body so as to dispose said pair of cameras mounted on said chassis in the predetermined mounting position of the vehicle body.]

10. (Amended) The structure for mounting cameras on a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said chassis has a cross section consisting of a plate-like main body extending in said lateral direction and a hook-like curved portion integrally formed along a front edge of said main body. [having a hooked sectional shape extending in a lateral direction.]

13. (Amended) The structure for mounting cameras on a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein [said mounting seat member] said chassis is [fixed] mounted onto a front rail of said vehicle body.

14. (Amended) The structure for mounting cameras on a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said chassis is supported by said vehicle body only through said mounting seat surface. [said mounting seat member supports all weight of said chassis and said pair of cameras after said chassis is fixed to said vehicle body.]

Application No. 09/665,105
Docket No. 032405.053

New Claims 13-22 have been added.